Clinch Valley News.

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Editor.

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WITH ENSILAGE YOU CAN COMPETE WITH THE WEST IN GROWING CATTLE.

MR GARRETT'S DIRECTIONS HOW TO MAKE IT.

ENFIELD, HALIFAX CO., N. C., December 3, 1885.

My Dear Sir:

I am just in receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, inquiring about my experience with ensilage. I gladly comply with your request.

I have been putting up ensilage and feeding it for over five years, and my experience causes me to value it more and more highly as I learn how to take care of it more cheaply. When I built my first silos, in the Summer of 1880, the idea was that only those built of cement or brick, in the ground, would answer the purpose, and costing at least $5 per ton to build. Now they are built on top of the ground, entirely of wood and earth, and at a cost of from 75c. to $1 per ton. These keep the ensilage as well as those constructed of cement or brick, are much more convenient, and involve less labor to feed from. I have two wood silos, built in 1881, above ground, and holding 180 tons, both costing not more than $125, the repairs since not exceeding $25, which are now in good order and full of ensilage, and have been filled every year since they were built. The contents, without exception, have been fed in good condition. The silos I built in 1880 (of cement below the ground,) hold 125 tons, and cost me about $3 per ton. These also have been filled every year since, (sometimes twice a year,) and the ensilage was not any better preserved than in those built of wood. Since I began to make ensilage, in the Fall of 1880, I have fed my horses, mules and cows almost exclusively on it, and have yet to see any bad results from it; on the contrary, I have been able to keep them in much better condition than before I commenced its use. In the year 1879 I had nine mules and horses and about as many cattle, and besides the long forage I could conveniently make on my farm, I paid out over $700 for hay bought by the car-load in Richmond. I am now feeding fifteen head of horses and mules and thirty cattle, and pay out nothing for hay, and my farm is no larger now than it was then. The extra manure I now produce pays me fully, I am persuaded, for the cost of the ensilage. I use corn and cow-pea vines exclusively for ensilage—the former, as I use it, is cheaper; the latter makes the best ensilage.

For the past three years I have been using corn constantly for this purpose, after it was sufficiently matured to sustain no injury, when the blades were ripe enough for fodder. I pull the corn, then cut the stalks down to the ground (blades on,) haul and cut them in three quarter inch lengths, and pack in the silo; then weight it as usual. This makes a very desirable food; the stock all like it, and I have never seen any bad results from it. During the three years named I have put up 160 tons per year from this source. My experience is that land producing 5 barrels of corn to the acre will make 5 tons of ensilage, or a ton to the barrel. I regard the ensilage as more valuable than the corn, and the cost of putting it into the silo is less than 75 cents per ton. I grow no corn exclusively for ensilage; most of it made in the United States is from corn grown expressly for the purpose. I am of opinion that at the time I cut it, it is as valuable for ensilage as at any period of its growth—hence a great saving in making both a crop of corn and ensilage. I see that others are adopting this plan to advantage.

My great plant for ensilage is the ordinary field, or cow-pea. Of this I put up about 200 tons yearly, and it is greatly preferred by my stock to that made of corn. This pea crop I grow chiefly after wheat and oats. I break the land as soon as the wheat is taken off, then plant in drills three feet apart, eight to twelve peas in a hill, using the Eureka corn-planter, dropping every twenty-one inches; side them up once or twice if need be and grass is troublesome; plant from 25th of June to the 10th of July, which gives ample time for the maturity of the plant for ensilage, producing from five to ten tons per acre, at a cost not exceeding $1.50 per ton, and worth 25 per cent. more in feed value than corn at any stage of its growth. With this plant properly utilized with the system of ensilage, the South can feed and raise sheep, cattle, mules, and horses as cheaply as any portion of the United States, except the very far West. This fact will be demonstrated some day. I give to my mules and cows about fifty pounds of ensilage each, per day. I have often seen published a statement that corn-stalks or any other suitable material made good ensilage without choping up fine with cutter. For fear of loss I have been afraid to try it. A neighbor who built a silo three years ago had his silo, machinery, and cutter burnt up last Winter. The silo was rebuilt last Summer and filled with corn stalks and pea-vines uncut. This ensilage is as good as any I have ever seen—sweeter than mine, that was cut fine, and is a little more trouble to take from the silo than that cut fine. I shall put up a large portion of mine next year without cutting. This fact renders it possible for every farmer who makes a one horse crop to put up ensilage, as the great bar to their doing as was the outlay of money for cutter, machinery, &c. This may be all obviated now. The only outlay required is the building of a silo, at a cost of not over $1 per ton, and which any one can do of ordinary mechanical capacity, without the help of a skilled mechanic. Knowing its great value, I earnestly hope the Southern people will adopt this system. It is an outrage, that having such advantages we should be so dependent.

That your fronds may not go wrong in the construction of the above-ground silo, I will give here a description of it in detail: These silos were built in 1881, and have been filled four times, the ensilage being always well preserved. First, I dug a trench for foundation-sills, 43 feet long, 14 feet wide and 8 inches deep. Into these put the sills of white oak, all heart, 10 inches square, framing a sill of the same size across the middle. This makes the foundation for two silos, inside measure 20 feet long by 12 feet wide. I put studs of heart oak into these sills 16 feet long, 2 by 6 inches, 2 feet apart, intending the silos to be 10 feet deep; then with 1 inch plank boarded up each side, the studs 10 feet high; fill the spaces between the studs and inner and outer wall of plank with sand (saw-dust will answer as well,) thus making an air-tight wall, which is all that is necessary, however it may be done. The six feet of studding above the walls or body of the silo is necessary for the purpose of filling, tramping, weighting, &c. I have one door to each silo, at the outer end, made by having the two middle studs 3 feet apart; to these hang two doors 18 inches wide by 5 feet long, to the inner edge of stude doors to open outward. Then close the doors and nail on boards to outer edge of studs, and fill between doors and boards with earth and you have the same walls as the other part of the silo. When you wish to open the doors rip off the boards in front, when the earth falls and the doors open outward exposing the ensilage. Of course the studs are framed into plates above, which should be done in a substantial manner, as the pressure from weighting the silo is quite heavy. My roofs extend 3 feet beyond the sides an ends, to prevent rain from being blown in on the ensilage. After filling the silo I first cover the ensilage with inch plank, laying them down lengthwise; then cover these with wheat or pine straw to prevent earth or sand from getting in; then cover with earth 18 inches deep, and you may rest assured that your ensilage is safe. I prefer common earth for weighting, for two reasons, first, it is more easily handled; and second, it excludes the air better than anything else. When feeding the ensilage first take out in front of the doors from *bottom* to top, about 2 feet; then on each side until the entire end is taken out; then put in good, substantial props to hold the planks and keep the weights from bending them down, which repeat, propping every 3 feet, as the ensilage is taken out, until the whole is exhausted. Care should be taken that this propping be well done, otherwise the planks above may give away, and endanger the safety of the feeders.

It has been well said that "our people must learn to grow everything for man and beast before they can claim to be self-sustaining"; and more, they must learn to make it without running into debt. No general prosperity can prevail until we can make what we consume before we consume it. Easy credit will destroy any people; it demoralizes the thrifty and makes paupers of the unthrifty. Very truly, yours,

C. W. GARRETT.

SUMMER VISITORS.

There are more summer visitors at Wytheville than ever before at this time of the season.

Will Jeffersonville have Southern visitors this season? No! Why not? Because they have not been "earnestly requested" to come.

A little money judiciously spent in advertising, and the right kind of man sent to the Southern cities could bring hundreds of visitors to Jeffersonville.

If one hundred people were to summer here this year, fifty of them would return next year, and with a little help bring an additional hundred with them.

One hundred persons spending the summer here, would, at the least calculation, leave in the county $12,000. Two hundred persons would leave $24,000. This estimate is made upon a basis of $25 per month for board alone.

When once the reputation of this place as a summer resort is established, but little expense would be necessary, to bring in as many visitors as could be accommodated. Time and more visitors would call for more accommodations.

The need of more accommodations would call for more work from carperters, masons, plasterers, painters and others. More and nicer buildings, however, would not detract from the town, and the additional work of the carpenters &c. would not be a hardship upon them.

If this place were to become a popular summer resort, dozens of little industries would start up to make money for those undertaking them, as well as to make healthy every present business.

Market gardening could be made more profitable than weak farming. The vegetables grown on an acre lot, if properly tended, would be worth $400. An acre of strawberries would be well worth $300.

A small dairy farm would be a fortune to some man.

A well stocked livery would make some other man independent.

Some enterprising fellow would secure the right to the different mineral springs, and keep the waters always at hand.

As an inland town, and without a market for so many things that it and the surrounding country can produce at little expense, Jeffersonville could add much to its material and social wealth and comfort, by becoming a summer resort.

Everything conduces to make Jeffersonville the place among a thousand as a resort for those who would quit the heated cities of the South, to spend the summer months in the cool and healthful country. No other place has a greater variety and abundance of mineral waters. She can command the finest of vegetables, fruits, beef, mutton, butter, poultry. She has the most delightful day breezes and cool nights. She looks out upon the grandest mountains and loveliest valleys. She is near fine fishing waters and hunting grounds. She has an intelligent and hospitable population.

If the people of the South, who leave their homes this summer for other places, knew Jeffersonville and the surrounding country just as it is, and as it could be made for their accommodation, the place would be overrun.

Senator George F. Edmunds, of Vermont, the great opponent of the tattooed man of Maine, who would like to be Republican presidential candidate once more, is thus depicted by a friend: "He has a narrow but an incisive mind, a prejudiced but an honest heart, a cold but an intrepid nature. He is a thoroughly independent man. He has been in the Senate since 1866, and has never asked his constituents to reelect him or requested a President to appoint any man to office, or signed any man's application for office. He is a most narrow and bigoted partisan, obstinately attached to his own opinions, rashly self-confident in his own abilities and offensively intolerant to opposing political creeds. He refused to support Mr. Blaine for President because he thought Mr. Blaine a dishonest man. Roscoe Conkling treats Mr. Blaine as a naval officer would treat a pirate. Ben. Butler treats him as a schoolmaster would treat a mischievous pupil, one moment thrashing him and the next moment petting him; but Edmunds treats him with lofty contempt." A sweet aggregation of Republican statesmen and nation savers. Faugh! —*State.*

Our exchanges have so far mentioned the following men as possible candidates before the Democratic Congressional convention: Connally F. Trigg, John A. Buchanan, and Abraham Fulkerson of Washington A. L. Pridemore of Lee, J. B. Richmond of Scott, J. A. Walker and D. A. Pierce of Wythe, S. W. Williams of Bland, J. W. Marshall of Craig, R. R Henry of Tazewell, and H. A. Routh of Russell.

Republican possibilities are Bailey of Washington, Bowen of Tazewell, French of Giles, and Blair of Wythe.

The Pearisburg *Virginian* thinks that if Bowen is to be the Republican candidate, Henry should be the Democratic.

The Democrats expect to carry Pennsylvania in the coming State election.

The State Board of Education has appointed Scott Wood, a colored attorney of Staunton, Va., and a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D. C., Secretary of the Board of Visitors of the Colored Normal School at Petersburg.

"He is an honest, upright, sterling, incorruptible, plain, unpretending man, with a will of his own. The people admire such a man and will sustain him against the outcry of time-serving politicians. We repeat that it must be obvious to an observer of the political drift that Mr. Cleveland is daily and steadily gaining in the favor and affection of the American people. He is, indeed, a remarkable man. There was something so sudden and seemingly untried in the selection of this new and almost unknown man as the standard-bearer of the Democratic party, that many felt a profound misgiving at the apparently rash experiment. But events have already more than justified the sagacity of those who pressed his nomination upon the party. He has doubly redeemed the public expectation. He is a model President, and he is continually growing in the popular regard and confidence." —*Lynchburg Virginian.*

1816—1886—THEN AND NOW.

IT DOES NOT APPEAR SO BAD FOR THE FARMER.

The tillers of the soil all over this country have been complaining for many years of the prices received for grain, cattle and general produce. But while "groaning under the burden" they do not stop to consider this fact: That during the past seventy years all kinds of farm products have increased largely in price, and manufactured articles have decreased. This assertion, perhaps, sounds "big," like an exaggeration, but read the following comparison of prices for farm produce, compiled by the *Milling World*, and you will see that the first part of our declaration is true:

	1816.	1886.
Wheat, per bushel	$0 44	$0 99
Oats, per bush	15	41
Corn, per bushel	20	46
Barley, per bushel	25	80
Butter, per pound	12	32
Cheese, per pound	6	10
Eggs, per dozen	5	12
Cows, per head	15.00	50.00
Hay, per ton	5.00	17.00
Straw, per ton	5.00	15.50
Sheep, per head	75	2.00
Farm labor, per month	8.00	18.50

Now, from the figures below, you will see that the latter part of our assertion—that manufactured articles have decreased—is true also:

	1816.	1886.
Steel, per pound	$0.17	$0.12
Nails, per pound	12	4
Broadcloth, per yard	16.00	4.00
Wool blankets, per pair	15.00	7.00
Cotton cloth, per yard	30	12
Calico, per yard	25	6
Salt, per bushel	$1 to $4	15 to 25

From the above figures it will be seen that the differences are enormous, against the manufacturer and in favor of the farmer. Doesn't it appear that the agriculturalist has been favored at the expense of the mechanic? And that the former class should cease to consider themselves the only class of victims of the present depressed business conditions?—*Wytheville Dispatch.*